

great pastor, the late Reverend Dr. U.B. Whitfield. Reverend Gaddy serves with the National Baptist Association, the Empire State Association, the Eastern Baptist Association, and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Craig Gaddy, Sr. is more than worthy of receiving this honor, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

GILMAN ENDORSES LAZIO RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE END, H. CON. RES. 418

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring a timely resolution sponsored by our colleague from New York, Mr. LAZIO. H. Con. Res. 418 expresses the sense of the Congress regarding the current level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The bill responds to this most serious of Palestinian violations of the Oslo process by condemning the violence, and demands that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat make a public appeal on Palestinian television for an end to these destructive acts. However, the fact that he has not yet done so speaks volumes about Chairman Arafat's true intentions.

The United States has consistently supported a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but this latest outburst is the worst we have seen in years. There is clear evidence that the violence was pre-meditated and coordinated by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. It seems to me that there can be no more flagrant disavowal of the Oslo process than this instigation of violence, because the very foundation of the Accords that were signed by the Israelis and Palestinians since 1993 underscores that the only avenue for the resolution of differences is negotiation, not confrontation.

H. Con. Res. 418 urges the President to use all of the diplomatic means available to our government to seek and end to the violence and return the Palestinians to the negotiating table. It expresses congressional support for the Israeli government's efforts to bring this current round of violence to a peaceful conclusion, since the current Israeli government has made it patently clear that it is prepared to make historic compromises for the sake of peace. We need now to determine whether Yasser Arafat, representing the Palestinian people, feels the same way.

H. Con. Res. 418 also urges this Administration to oppose any anti-Israel efforts at the United Nations, including the establishment of an international commission of inquiry; and puts Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians on notice that their response to this escalation of violence affects their future relations with the United States.

Accordingly, I ask that a copy of the measure be printed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for our colleagues' review, and

urge them to contact Rep. LAZIO's office at their earliest opportunity to cosponsor this important resolution.

H. CON. RES. 418

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LAZIO (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. REYNOLDS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the current level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict;

Whereas the current level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians is the worst in years;

Whereas the current round of violence comes at a time when the Israeli Government is prepared to make historic compromises towards peace;

Whereas there is clear evidence that this violence was a pre-meditated and coordinated action by the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas the active participation of armed uniformed Palestinian police in attacks against Israelis is an indication of the unwillingness of the Palestinian Authority to work towards a halt to this violence;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority's encouragement of violence is a violation of the underlying basis on which the entire Oslo peace process has been built, particularly the incitement by Palestinian television;

Whereas the Palestinians are mounting a concerted international campaign to justify the violence by blaming Israel; and

Whereas the Palestinian renunciation of violence in the Oslo peace process does not provide any basis for the justification of the resumption of violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, statements and actions by Palestinians designed to inflame and encourage violence;

(2) demands that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat make a public appeal on Palestinian television for the public to cease further acts of violence;

(3) urges the President to use all of the diplomatic means available to the United States Government to seek an end to the violence and return the Palestinians to the negotiating table;

(4) strongly supports actions by the Israeli Government designed to bring this current round of violence to a peaceful conclusion;

(5) urges the Administration to oppose—

(A) any United Nations effort to put forward one-sided anti-Israel resolutions or statements; and

(B) the establishment of any international commission of inquiry; and

(6) will consider the response of Palestinians to the escalation of violence in their future relations with the United States.

THE BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOLS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commendable achievement of

the Broward County Public School District of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Broward County Schools, which I am proud to represent, is one of only seven school districts in the country to be recognized by the United States Department of Education National Awards Program for Model Professional Development. Indeed, the remarkable efforts of the teachers, professional staff, and administrators of this, the nation's largest fully accredited public school district are fully deserving of this recognition.

Professional development for teachers—learning experiences which increase teachers' knowledge base and classroom skills—is a crucial ingredient to improving public education in America. The National Awards Program for Model Professional Development rewards and honors outstanding professional development programs and showcases effective professional development practices to help schools to learn from each other.

In establishing its professional development program called "Professional Pathways," the Broward County School District sought to meet the unique needs of its diverse multi-cultural population. Because of the complex demographic characteristics of the district's student population which represent 159 countries and speak 53 languages, the program had to achieve ambitious goals. High standards were set and professional accountability was demanded. Accordingly, Professional Pathways requires all professionals to write annual professional development goals that are aligned with the school's improvement plan and to provide the district with annual program reviews. Professional development opportunities for staff members include individual training school-based activities, and certain district mandated training. Moreover, Professional Pathways ensures that staff development is long-term, based on research, relates to school improvement, and addresses both student and teacher needs.

As a result of this ongoing initiative, since 1996, state writing assessment scores have increased in elementary grades and state mathematics assessment scores have increased in all levels, K-12. In addition, the district's average Scholastic Achievement Test scores and average American College Test scores have increased since 1997. Advanced Placement Test results indicate that the average score of district students increased 4.6 points over the previous year, compared to the statewide increase of 1.7 points.

Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate and commend the instructional and professional staff of the Broward County Public School District for their exemplary achievement in enhancing the effectiveness and success of public education in the state of Florida. The vision and innovation illustrated in developing the Professional Pathways program by the Broward County School District serves as a wonderful example of quality teaching and learning in public education in Florida and the United States as a whole.